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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography of children's books is culled from the fourteen lists published in "Children's Choices" between 1975 and 1988. The 154 selections in the bibliography are categorized according to interests, needs, and objectives of teachers of young children, primary level or below. The categories are as follows: alphabet, counting, holidays, social living, sibling relationships, friendship, fears, basic concepts, science concepts, health concepts, read-aloud books, classics, wordless picture books, creative expression, and beginning reading. Seventeen references are attached. (SR)

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PEER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG: A CATEGORIZED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY SELECTED FROM CHILDREN'S CHOICES

Elizabeth C. Webre

Teachers of young children want to share books with their charges for many reasons. First, they want to share with children the wonderful world of words, giving them opportunity to appreciate such phrases as "with a bangety, bumpety, rattle-y song" (Wright, 1954), "but Drummer Hoff fired it off!" (Emberly, 1967), "hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats" (Gag, 1928). Also, teachers of young children want to share the tales that have delighted other children, traditional tales that are now considered classics.

In sharing books with the young, teachers may also have in mind more specific objectives, such as the reinforcement of letter names or counting from one to ten, or the further development of such basic concepts as size and shape. At a more advanced level, teachers may share books appropriate for beginning readers.

Many sources of books are available to teachers of young children. One useful source is Children's Choices, an annotated list of books chosen by children. Each year since 1975 the International Reading Association -- Children's Book Council Joint Committee -- has published a list of new children's trade books -- books to which children have responded enthusiastically.

Knowing which trade books appeal to children is helpful in making available books that will provide pleasure to young children and that will reinforce and expand the concepts of concern to teachers of the young. For example, letter knowledge can be reinforced through the use of Ed Emberly's ABC in which animals involved in a variety of activities introduce the letters of the alphabet.

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In The Guinea Pig ABC, guinea pigs illustrate each letter. In a distinctly different alphabet book, On Market Street, a little boy strolls down Market Street to see what he can buy for a friend.

On the other hand, math skills and concepts are reinforced in such counting books as Hippos Go Beserk, Counting Sheep, and Demi's Counting the Animals 1, 2, 3. In The Shopping Basket, an array of mathematical concepts is explored.

Several books included in Children's Choices are related to holidays. For example, many of the holiday-related books revolve around Halloween. Grinkles: A Keen Halloween Story abounds with rhyme and rhythm and ends with a recipe for a magic brew. Cranberry Halloween also includes recipes. Christmas-related books include It's Christmas, a colorful easy-to-read book, and The Night After Christmas, a read-aloud book for after the Christmas holidays.

Many of the concerns of teachers of young children revolve around social living: family relationships, friendship, self-acceptance. Such books as I Want a Brother or Sister, If I Had My Way, and She Come Bringing Me That Little Baby Girl center around a new baby in the family. Friendship, on the other hand, is highlighted in such books as Lobel's Frog and Toad All Year, Marie Louise and Christophe, and I'm Not Your Friend Any More.

In a similar vein, teachers realize the child's real need for recognizing and overcoming fear. Several of the favorites listed in Children's Choices investigate fear: fear of the dog next door as in The Biggest, Meanest, Ugliest Dog in the Whole Wide World, fear of swimming as in Hooray for Pig, and fear of being forgotten as in Waiting for Mom.

Books dealing with more concrete concepts can be located, as well. Such books as The Animals Who Changed Their Colors and Is It Red? Is It Yellow? Is It Blue? reinforce color concepts. More complex concepts are presented in such books as Mr. Bear's Chair in which Mr. Bear demonstrates the process of building a chair from a simple tree and Town and Country, a comparative study of bustling city life versus quiet country life. A study of transportation could be enhanced through the use of Donald Crews' School Bus and Freight Train, and Amy Ehrlich's The Everyday Train.

Finally, books abound in Children's Choices which are simply books to be enjoyed. Rum, Pum, Pum and Jump, Frog, Jump are read-aloud books which encourage children to join in the refrain. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? and Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People are delightful books for beginning readers. Ten Copy Cats in a Boat and Other Riddles stimulate the funny bone and Everett Anderson's Year stimulates the poetic ear.

Many books have been suggested in the preceding discussion -- all of which have been culled from the fourteen lists published in Children's Choices between 1975 and 1988. Since the original lists were categorized according to age levels, books were selected from appropriately labeled lists, i.e., "All ages," "Beginning independent reading," "Young readers," or "Seven years and under," and "Seven to ten years." The resulting compilation was then categorized according to interests, needs, and objectives of teachers of young children, primary level or below.

ALPHABET

Crowther, Robert. The Most Amazing Hide-and-Seek Alphabet Book. Viking, 1977.

The animal illustrations for each letter of the alphabet are cleverly hidden behind the bold black letters. A young child will delight in pulling, pushing and turning each letter to discover an animal whose name starts with that letter.

Demi. Demi's Find the Animal ABC. Ill. by the author. Grosset, 1985.

Look closely at the drawing of the small animal in the box on each page, then find that same animal somewhere in the drawings. Answers to the picture puzzles are given at the end of the book.

Duke, Kate. The Guinea Pig ABC. Ill. by the author. Dutton, 1983.

An alphabet book starring guinea pigs in all their various poses and predicaments. Young readers delight in their cuddly appearances and funny antics as the guinea pigs illustrate each letter.

Emberley, Ed. Ed Emberley's ABC. Ill. by the author. Little, Brown, 1978.

Animals involved in a variety of activities introduce the letters of the alphabet. Children love finding objects that begin with the featured letter such as "ant," "alligator," and "airplane" on the "A" pages.

Gardner, Beau. Have You Ever Seen...? An ABC Book. Ill. by the author. Dodd, 1986.

Bold bright graphics and artful alliteration enliven this ABC book of comical combinations -- e.g., "an Egg with Ears... a Jellybean Jump-rope."

Kitchen, Bert. Animal Alphabet. Ill. by the author. Dial, 1984.

It's not the large black letters that intrigue readers of this book, it's the animals that accompany each letter. Unfamiliar animals keep viewers guessing.

Lobel, Arnold. On Market Street. Ill. by Anita Lobel. Greenwillow, 1981.

In this distinctively different alphabet book, a little boy strolls the length of Market Street to see what he can buy for a friend. Kindergarten children enjoy identifying all the things they would buy for friends.

Mack, Stan. The King's Cat is Coming. Ill. by the author. Pantheon, 1976.

Appealing illustrations delight younger children as they try to predict what the king's cat is like. A further source of enjoyment for the more mature student lies in discovering the pattern of alphabetical characteristics attributed to the cat by the town's people.

Niland, Deborah. ABC of Monsters. Ill. by the author. McGraw, 1978.

Children find these lovable, roly-poly monsters, performing various antics representing each letter of the alphabet, hard to resist. For example, these cuddly comical creatures can be found "eating eggs," "frightening frogs" and "gobbling grandmas."

COUNTING

Boynton, Sandra. Hippos Go Berserk. Ill. by the author. Little, Brown, 1979.

If you're a hippo and all alone, invite some friends (45 in fact) and let the party start. But all good times must end and the hippos go home, leaving a lonely hippo behind once more. The children enjoyed the rhyme of this counting book.

Burningham, John. The Shopping Basket. Ill. by the author. Crowell, 1980.

An array of mathematical concepts is explored in this story about Steven's experiences with a series of beasts on his way home from the store. Line and wash illustrations help readers differentiate between the boy's real world and his flights into fantasy.

Demi. Demi's Count the Animals 1, 2, 3. Ill by the author, Grosset, 1986.

The appealing, rhymed text and two-page-spread animal designs entice young children to count again and again from 1 rhinocerous to 20 pangolins. A "grown up" challenge is also offered -- count to 100 by 2s.

Galdone, Paul. Over in the Meadow: An Old Nursery Counting Rhyme. Ill. by the adaptor. Prentice, 1986.

The old counting rhyme has never been more appealing, according to many teachers and their pupils, who expressed approval of the gently cartooned animals and soft spring-colored scenes.

Mendoza, George. Counting Sheep. Ill. by Kathleen Reidy. Gosset, 1982.

In this 1-20 counting book, a shepherd who regularly counts sheep as he falls to sleep is troubled by dreams featuring his sheep engaged in all sorts of unusual adventures.

Munteam, Michaela. The House That Bear Built. Ill. by Nicole Rubel. Dial, 1984.

Young children learn by playing with this book. While they follow the story, they place numbered cards on a game board, unknowingly "building" bear's house on the flip side of the cards.

Peek, Merle. Roll Over! A Counting Song. Ill. by the author. Clarion, 1981.

This popular book is a series of two-page spreads, illustrating the counting song. Beginning with ten, animals fall out of bed until only one -- a boy -- is left. The music is included at the end of the book.

HOLIDAYS

VALENTINE'S DAY

Adams, Adrienne. The Great Valentine's Day Balloon Race. Ill. by the author. Scribner, 1980.

An unusual holiday book for Valentine's Day about a hot air balloon race. The story has strong appeal because a wish is granted, a contest is won, and a great accomplishment is achieved.

Brown, Marc. Arthur's Valentine. Ill. by the author. Atlantic/Little, Brown, 1980.

Arthur has been getting a lot of valentines from a secret admirer. Arthur puts together the clues from each valentine, decides who has sent them and sends a valentine to the wrong person.

Cuyler, Margery. Freckles and Willie: A Valentine's Day Story. Ill. by Marsha Winborn. Holt, 1986.

Freckles, the dog, is Willie's best friend, and they share everything until a new girl named Jane moves in next door. Willie learns an important lesson about friendship in this colorful and delightful tale of Valentine's Day.

Kelley, True. A Valentine for Fuzzboom. Ill. by the author. Houghton, 1981.

When Lima Bean, a young rabbit, falls madly in love with dashing Fuzzboom, she sees his image in her soup and in the clouds. Finally she realizes Fuzzboom is a "stuck-up cloud-brain." Illustrations contribute to the humor of this comic valentine story.

Modell, Frank. One Zillion Valentines. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1981.

Cartoon sketches detail this satisfying story of how two boys make many different kinds of valentines.

Ziefert, Harriet. Where Is Nicky's Valentine? Ill. by Richard Brown. Puffin, 1987.

Children enjoy peeking under the flags in this book to see who is getting valentines from Nicky. But where is Nicky's valentine? Have his friends forgotten him? An easy to read story with a surprise ending.

EASTER

Adams, Adrienne. The Easter Egg Artists. Ill. by the author. Scribner's. 1976.

The Abbotts, rabbits who design Easter eggs, are worried that son Orson will not follow the family trade. On a winter vacation Orson and the family paint a car, a house, an airplane, a bridge, and Orson becomes a committed Easter Egg Artist.

Balian, Lorna. Humbug Rabbit. Ill. by the author. Abington, 1976.

Children solve the mystery of the missing Easter eggs as they see the rabbits, below ground, and Granny, above ground, prepare for Easter. Detailed pictures, humorous touches, and a satisfying ending add to reader enjoyment.

HALLOWEEN

Brown, Marc. Arthur's Halloween. Ill. by the author. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1982.

Arthur is not excited about Halloween. The decorations, costumes, and even the treats at school (batwing brownies and vampire blood) are spooky. To make matters worse, he has to take his sister D.W. trick-or-treating. Young children who get scared on Halloween identify with Arthur's feelings.

Bunting, Eve. Scary, Scary Halloween. Ill. by Jan Brett. Clarion, 1986.

Four pairs of glowing green eyes look out at the skeletons, ghosts, and witches, all out trick-or-treating on a colorful Halloween night -- and only on the last page can we tell whose eyes they are!

Carlson, Natalie Savage. Spooky Night. Ill. by Andrew Glass. Lothrop, 1982.

A witch's black cat runs away from her to become a regular family pet. On Halloween night the witch comes back to claim her cat. Young children read on enthusiastically to find out how the cat frees itself from the witch's spell.

Collins, Trish. Grinkles: A Keen Halloween Story. Ill. by the author. Watts, 1981.

When the Halloween brew fails to make magic, Witch sets out to find grinkles to remedy the situation. Unfortunately, she doesn't know a grinkle from a periwinkle. Rhyme and rhythmn abound in the lighthearted tale that ends with a recipe for magic brew using grinkles (grapes with wrinkles), also known as raisins.

Devlin, Wende and Harry. Cranberry Halloween. Ill. by Harry Devlin. Four Winds, 1982.

This Halloween story delights children throughout the year. Besides combining adventure and suspense with a happy ending, the book includes two easy recipes for cranberry desserts children can make and enjoy.

Johnston, Tony. The Vanishing Pumpkin. Ill. by Tomie de Paola. Putnam, 1983.

Rapscallions, ghouls, varmints, and wizards team up in this delightfully madcap Halloween tale. Repetitive phrases, merrily chanted by young readers, distinctive de Paola illustrations, and a surprise ending add to the appeal of this book.

Prager, Annabelle. The Spooky Halloween Party. Ill. by Tomie de Paola. Pantheon, 1981.

This "chapter-story" about a super-special Halloween party is illustrated effectively with cartoon sketches.

Quackenbush, Robert. Detective Mole and the Halloween Mystery. Ill. by the author. Lothrop, 1981.

Detective Mole uses some sly tricks and a pocketful of jelly-beans to solve the missing pumpkin mystery.

THANKSGIVING

Williams, Barbara. Chester Chipmumk's Thanksgiving. Ill. by Kay Chorao. Dutton, 1978.

It's Thanksgiving Day, and Chester Chipmumk wants to share his blessings with his friends. But his friends are all busy with company of their own. Finally, Oswald Opossom comes to dinner, followed by many unexpected guests, and Chester realizes that Thanksgiving is indeed a ıy for sharing. Children will enjoy this delightful story witn its charming illustrations.

CHRISTMAS

Bright, Robert. Georgie's Christmas Carol. Ill. by the author. Doubleday, 1975.

Georgie, the friendly ghost, charms children as he organizes an unusual Christmas surprise for two children and their uncle, gloomy Mr. Gloams. A good read-aloud book that shows children what the spirit of giving to others accomplishes.

Gammell, Stephen. Wake Up, Bear, It's Christmas. Ill. by the author. Lothrop, 1981.

Bear has missed Christmas for seven years, so he sets his clock to wake up on Christmas Eve. An unexpected visitor arrives. They sing, talk, and enjoy each other. Then Bear accepts the little man's invitation to "come for a ride" and they go up into the sky in a sleigh.

Mayer, Mercer. Merry Christmas Mom and Dad. Ill. by the author. Western Publishing Company/Golden Books, 1982.

Strange things can happen while decorating for Christmas. Sometimes, no matter how good one's intentions are, nothing seems to go right.

Moore, Clement C. The Night Before Christmas. Ill. by Anita Lobel. Knopf, 1984.

The classic Christmas poem written in 1822 is illustrated with nostalgic paintings. The setting is in the city with Victorian row townhouses. The house decorations are opulent and full of historic detail.

Moore, Clement. The Night Before Christmas. Ill. by Tomie de Paola. Holiday, 1980.

Clear, precise, watercolor paintings detail the events of this classic narrative poem. The borders of each page are patterns from antique quilts.

Prelutsky, Jack. It's Christmas. Ill. by Marylin Hafner, Greenwillow, 1981.

A collection of rhymes about various aspects of Christmas. The cartoon-style illustrations add warm humor to this easy-to-read book.

Stevenson, James. The Night After Christmas. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1981.

A perfect read-aloud book after the Christmas holidays. The day after Christmas, a rag doll and a teddy bear are discarded by their owners for newer ones.

SOCIAL LIVING

Asch, Frank. Just Like Daddy. Ill. by the author. Prentice, 1981.

A warm, action tale of a father-son relationship. Kindergarten and first grade pupils are delighted as they join in reading "just like Daddy."

Burningham, John. Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car. Ill. by the author. Crowell, 1976.

Mr. Gumpy is off on another unpredictable outing. Children and animals pile in his old red touring car, but trouble lies ahead. The car gets stuck in the mud and Mr. Gumpy needs help. The old "not me" response comes from his passengers. However, in the end all help and the trip is a success.

Caines, Jeannette. Daddy. Ill. by Ronald Himler. Harper, 1977.

This loving picture of fatherhood is reassuring to the child whose parents quarrel or have parted. Wendy, age seven or eight, tells what she and her daddy do on his Saturday visits, as well as how she feels before it.

de Paola, Tomie. Watch Out for Chicken Feet in Your Soup. Ill by the author. Prentice-Hall, 1974.

Unique beginning-to-read story prepares the reader for a peek into the "old ways" of an Italian grandma. Text encourages tolerance for different life styles and concludes with a recipe for making grandma's special bread dolls.

Hines, Anna Grossnickle. Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti. Ill. by the author. Clarion, 1986.

Children will feel the warmth and love surrounding this little boy whose two parents work. He helps his parents and they in turn make every routine a fun time. The illustrations enhance this mood.

Hoban, Russell. Dinner at Alberta's. Ill. by James Marshall. Crowell, 1975.

Teaching about manners is fun with this book about Arthur Crocodile and his family. This humorous tale offers an opportunity to work with interpretive reading skills and will stimulate discussion dealing with social behavior and the need to change.

Iverson, Genie. I Want to Be Big. Ill. by David McPhail. Unicorn/Dutton, 1979.

It's fun to be grown up, but not all the time. One child wants to be big enough to dress herself, walk to school alone, and reach the cereal at the supermarket, but not big enough to stay overnight and not too big for her fuzzy bathrobe.

Keats, Ezra Jack. Louie. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1975.

As children are putting on a puppet show, shy Louie interrupts the show to talk with Gussie, one of the puppets. At first there is disappointment for Louie but a thoughtful surprise appears in the satisfying ending. Consideration for others is shown in the action while encouragement of puppetry in the classroom may be a side effect.

Kraus, Robert. Rebecca Hatpin. Ill. by Robert Byrd, Windmill/Dutton, 1974.

About a self-centered little girl who learns that it is satisfying to help other people. Good for approaching social responsibility and consideration for others.

Kroll, Steven. If I Could Be My Grandmother. Ill by Lady McCrady. Pantheon, 1977.

A little girl, remembering all the reasons why her grandmother is so special, assumes in her make-believe the role of grandmother and makes her Raggedy Ann her grandchild. The sharing, caring, and love between the girl and her grandmother, evident throughout, are best expressed when Grandma comes for a surprise visit.

Pinkwater, Daniel. Bear's Picture. Ill. by the author. Dutton, 1984.

Young Bear delights in creating his own picture in spite of criticism from two "fine, proper gentlemen." This book teaches a lesson about individuality. The young readers notice how the size and shape of print changes when different people are talking.

Segal, Joyce. It's Time to Go to Bed. Ill. by Robin Eaton. Doubleday, 1979.

This book presents the most familiar but often unsuccessful excuses for delaying bedtime. Different animals present each excuse. Young goldfish, for instance, would not ask for a drink of water. The text is cleverly split with the admonition on one page and the excuse facing it.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. A Big Fat Enormous Lie. Ill. by David McPhail. Dutton, 1978.

A small boy tells a lie to avoid punishment and is followed by a burden of guilt throughout the day. His lie grows with his guilt until it threatens to overpower him, and the boy realizes that the truth must be told. Many children should be able to identify with this young child's problem.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. Scarlet Monster Lives Here. Ill. by Dennis Kendrick. Harper, 1979.

The new monster in the neighborhood fears rejection by the other monsters. The story conveys two important messages: things are not always what they seem, and never give up hope.

Wagner, Jenny. John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat. Ill. by Ron Brooks, Bradbury, 1978.

Dealing with jealousy is the subtle theme of this story as John Brown (a shaggy dog) fears the intrusion of Midnight (a black cat) into his cozy and settled life with Rose (a kindly widow lady).

Wahl, Jan. Jamie's Tiger. Ill. by Tomie de Paola. Harcourt, 1978.

Jamie suddenly loses his hearing after a bout of German measles. When his problem is recognized, Jamie makes the difficult transition to the world of the deaf. His family and friends aid him with love, encouragement, and understanding, and Jamie learns to live successfully with his handicap.

Walker, Lou Ann. Amy. The Story of a Deaf Child. Ill. with photographs by Michael Abramson. Lodestar, 1985.

Photos with Amy's narrative detail her life with deaf parents and a hearing brother. Included is a picture glossary of signs for important words.

SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. The Berenstain Bears in the Dark. Ill. by the authors. Random House, 1982.

Brother Bear delights in scaring Sister Bear with spooky stories and frightful sounds in the dark. But Brother Bear finds out that he, too, can be frightened. Children delight in the brother and sister relationship.

Castiglia, Julie. Jill the Pill. Ill. by Steven Kellogg. McElderry/ Atheneum, 1979.

Jill is nine years older than her brother, Pat the Brat. Text and illustrations combine to present a familiar situation to all those living under the thumb of an older sibling.

Greenfield, Eloise. She Came Bringing Me That Little Baby Girl. Ill. by John Steptoe. Lippincott, 1974.

Great to start discussion about a new baby in a family and the feelings older children might have about the baby. Children enjoyed listening to the story and took the book for closer study of illustrations.

Hoban, Lillian. Arthur's Prize Reader. Ill. by the author. Harper, 1978.

Arthur's little sister is the best reader in the first grade; to hear him tell it, he taught her all she knows (even "hard words"). But, we find out differently as the story unfolds. A sentive, comic story of sibling rivalry and its resolution, this book will parallel most children's experiences at home.

Klein, Norma. If I Had My Way. Ill. by Ray Cruz. Pantheon, 1974.

Children can identify with this fantasy of role-playing in which a little girl becomes parent to her mother, father, and baby brother. Excellent for children with new siblings.

Lindgren, Astrid. I Want a Brother or Sister. Trans. by Barbara Lucas. Ill. by Ilon Wikland. Harcourt, 1981.

In this simple story, Peter discovers that the baby sister he wished for isn't all that much fun. Peter is naughty and sad until his mother assures him that she loves him and asks him for his help.

Supraner, Robyn. It's Not Fair! Ill. by Randall Enos. Warne, 1976.

Children identify with the problems of being an older sister. Sibling rivalry is an almost universal experience, and many children appreciated the difficulties enumerated here.

Williams, Barbara. Jeremy Isn't Hungry. Ill. by Martha Alexander. Dutton, 1978.

Davey's unsuccessful attempts to pacify a baby brother by feeding him lead to panic and interruptions for mother, who is trying to get ready to attend a school function. The illustrations provide much of the humor for this amusing story in this read-aloud book.

FRIENDSHIP

Carlson, Natalie Savage. Marie Louise and Christophe. Ill. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Scribner, 1974.

Leads into discussions about being friends and the consequences of playing unkind tricks.

Delton, Judy. Rabbit Finds a Way. Ill. by Joe Lasker. Crown, 1975.

Children sympathize with Rabbit when he fails to get his usual treat of Bear's carrot cake. They enjoy his resourceful solution (calling up for the recipe). A good book to call attention to kind deeds that friends do for one another.

Delton, Judy. Two Good Friends. Ill. by Giulio Maestro. Crown, 1975.

Children relate to the friendship between Bear and Duck and their willingness to help each other in everyday household tasks. The vocabulary and the sentence structure are especially good for reading aloud.

Fuji Kawa, Gyo. Jenny Learns a Lesson. Ill. by the author. Grosset, 1980.

Jenny learns that cooperation, sharing, and apologizing are a part of being and keeping friends. The events of the story are common to childhood and allow the reader to empathize with the characters.

Fuji Kawa, Gyo. Welcome is a Wonderful Word. Ill. by the author, Grosset, 1980.

Jenny and her friends prepare a welcome for the new girl, Mei Su. The children share their "treasures" as the way to make their new friend feel at home.

Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad All Year. Ill. by the author. Harper, 1976.

Six more tales about the friendship of wise and bumbling frog and toad. Illustrations in green and brown complement the good-natured humor in the stories.

Seuling, Barbara. The Great Big Elephant and the Very Small Elephant. Ill. by the author. Crown, 1977.

Friendship is the theme of these three stories. The first is about having to say good-bye to a friend, the second shows how friends help each other out of difficult situations, and the last, how friends value each other's companionship.

Sharmot, Marjorie Weinman. I'm Not Oscar's Friend Anymore. Ill. by Tony DeLuna. Dutton, 1975.

For any child who has ever had a fight with his or her best friend and doesn't even remember how the whole thing got started. Younger children are especially pleased that there is a happy ending.

Sharmot, Marjorie Weinman. Rollo and Juliet, Forever! Ill. by Marylin Hafner. Doubleday, 1981.

A book of contrasts of emotion. The book begins with sugary sweet phrases such as "may your day sparkle with a good golden glow from the sun" between cat friends, Rollo and Juliet. When Juliet discovers Rollo has company instead of being at her house, both enjoy being mad at each other. Finally, they agree to be friends again.

FEARS

Fuji Kawa, Gyo. Fraidy Cat. Ill. by the author. Grosset, 1982.

Children develop an understanding of their fraidy cat pal, Mei Sue, when they are frightened by her shadow. As younger children read this story, they talk about what used to frighten them.

Jones, Rebecca. The Biggest, Meanest, Ugliest Dog in the Whole Wide World. Ill. by Wendy Watson. Macmillan, 1982.

A little boy's fear of the dog next door changes when he plays ball with the dog. Things which used to seem scary about the dog turn out to be friendly.

Most, Bernard. Boo! Ill. by the author. Prentice, 1980.

A delightful turnabout -- the monster is afraid of the children. And children will learn how to overcome their own fears by seeing how the monster overcomes its own fear.

Stevens, Carla. Hooray for Pig. Ill. by Rainey Bennett. Seabury, 1974.

This book about a pig who is afraid to swim could serve as basis for discussions about overcoming fears and trying new things.

Tyler, Linda Wagner. Waiting for Mom. Ill. by Susan Davis. Viking, 1987.

School is over for the day, but Mom doesn't arrive to pick you up. What do you do? How do you stay brave? Details in pictures and writing bring this story to life and clear up the mystery of Mom's delay. It's a good discussion story.

BASIC CONCEPTS

Allamand, Pascale. The Animals Who Changed Their Colors. Ill. by the author. Lothrop, 1979.

A cute tale about some animals who decide they want to be as beautiful and colorful as parrots. The delightful pictures show the results: a red whale, blue crocodile, green polar bear, and orange tortoise.

Crews, Donald. Freight Train. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1978.

The simple words of the picture book suggest the action of the boldly colored illustrations. Each section of the train is identified and pictured before the whole freight train moves across the landscape.

Crews, Donald. Parade. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1983.

A colorful impression of a typical parade, from beginning to end. The author's graphics are clear, carefully executed, and subtly multicultural. Young children enjoy the simplicity of the concept and the art.

Crews, Donald. School Bus. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow, 1984.

A day in the life of school buses is detailed with large, flat, bold illustrations and simple text. Fun as a read-aloud book or alone.

Ehrlich, Amy. The Everyday Train. Ill. by Martha Alexander. Dial, 1977.

Jane enjoys meeting the train that passes daily not far from her house, fascinated by the rhythm of its movement, its variety of cars, its friendly engineer, and the mystery of its destination. She plays the games all children enjoy of counting the cars and guessing the color of the caboose, always eager for the train's return the following day.

Graham, Thomas. Mr. Bear's Chair. Ill. by the author. Dutton, 1987.

This is a story of Mr. and Mrs. Bear. After Mrs. Bear breaks her dinner chair, Mr. Bear demonstrates the process of building a chair from a simple tree.

Hoban, Tana. Is It Red? Is It Yellow? Is It Blue? Ill. with photographs by the author. Greenwillow, 1978.

Bold, simple pictures of childlike interests fairly compel little ones to squeal with delight. "Sunglasses!" "Jelly-bean shoes!" "Jack-o-lantern!" Relationships (an opened umbrella opposite a collapsed one) and hidden information such as size, shape, and design are presented.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. Click, Rumble, Roar: Poems about Machines. Ill. with photographs by Anna Held Audette. Crowell, 1987.

This collection of poems introduces the reader to the different types, sounds, and uses of various machines. With a touch of humor, several of the machines are compared to living things. Action photographs correspond with each poem.

Kessler, Ethel and Leonard. What's Inside the Box? Ill. by Leonard Kessler. Dodd, 1976.

This easy-to-read book, while remaining humorous and suspenseful, helps children to develop thier conceptual thinking. Treatment of such concepts as near, behind, over, and inside are part of a sequence of events that lead to a surprise ending.

McMillan, Bruce. Here a Chick, There a Chick. Ill. with photographs by the author. Lothrop, 1983.

Young children delight in the clear, close-up photos of a newly-hatched chick that illustrate simple antonyms such as here/there, inside/outside, left/right, and others.

Peppe, Rodney. Rodney Peppe's Puzzle Book. Viking, 1977.

Eleven intricate and humorous, full-color picture puzzles encourage young children to look closely at and discuss what they see. Size relationships, simple counting, and naming animals are among the numerous activities teachers can pursue with this book.

Provensen, Alice and Martin. Town and Country. Ill. by the authors. Crown, 1985.

Children especially enjoyed the colorful details in this comparative study of bustling city life versus quiet country life.

SCIENCE CONCEPTS

Ahlberg, Janet and Allen. The Little Worm Book. Ill. by the authors. Viking, 1980.

This tiny book, illustrated with humorous drawings, provides a wealth of information about worms: a brief history of the worm, superstitions about worms, worms that can be pets, food, trained performers, and much more.

Carl, Eric. The Honeybee and the Robber: A Moving Picture Book. Ill. by the author. Philomel, 1981.

This very popular movable book features Carle's beautiful pictures coupled with paper engineering that causes butterflies to pop up from the book and fish to leap from the water. At the end of the book, Carle includes two pages of factual information about bees, enabling the books to function as a science lesson as well.

Freeman, Don. The Seal and the Slick Story. Ill by the author. Viking, 1974.

Without being moralistic this picture book recounts what happens to marine life, in this case a seal, when a spill occurs in the ocean. Excellent both in text and in illustrations. High appeal to children in primary grades.

Hoff, Sid. Amy's Dinosaur. Ill. by the author. Windmill/Dutton, 1974.

Ecology theme mingled with the return of a dinosaur into modern times makes this popular with children and useful to teachers. An easy reading book that deals with a contemporary problem.

Miller, Edna. Mousekin's Close Call. Ill. by the author. Prentice, 1978.

The tale of Mousekin provides information about how certain animals protect themselves against their enemies by playing dead. Mousekin observes a variety of animals in this situation. He sees no need for this "pretending" behavior until he is caught off guard by an enemy. The thrill and relief of danger met and overcome make this an appealing book for young children.

Rabinowitz, Sandy. What's Happening to Daisy? Harper, 1977.

Daisy's belly has grown big and round and she can hardly squeeze into her stall. Twenty-two simple sentences tell of the birth of her colt. Illustrations in blue and coral show the process. The three pictures that show the actual birth are less graphic than photographs, thus perhaps more suitable for very young children.

Zolotow, Charlotte. When the Wind Stops. Ill. by Howard Knotts. Harper, 1975.

At the end of a happy day, a little boy asks his mother, "Why does the day have to end?" Each answer brings another question about the continuity of life and seasons and nature. This quiet mood book can be used to develop understandings about the cyclical nature of events and reassurance about the future.

HEALTH CONCEPTS

Bate, Lucy. Little Rabbit's Loose Tooth. Ill. by Diane DeGroat. Crown, 1978.

Reading this book aloud to children promotes lively discussions about what tooth fairies do with teeth and if, indeed, there is such a being at all. Text lends itself to creative writing.

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room. Ill. by the authors. Random, 1983.

Papa Bear attends to the problem of "messy build-up" in the cubs' room. Cooperation and comic characters provide a mild lesson in cleanliness.

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor. Ill. by the authors. Random, 1981.

The ever-popular Berenstain Bears go to the doctor for a checkup. All the usual checkup routines are covered, from taking temperatures to getting booster shots.

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist. Ill. by the authors. Random, 1981.

The Berenstain Bears help children learn about loose teeth, dentists, fillings, and dental equipment. Brother Bear gets his first filling and Sister Bear has her first loose tooth pulled.

Chalmers, Mary. Come to the Doctor, Harry. Ill. by the author. Harper, 1981.

Charmingly simple illustrations and a few words tell the story of Harry, a childlike cat, who learns that a visit to the doctor's office can be a pleasant experience.

Cooney, Nancy Evans. The Wobbly Tooth. Ill. by Marylin Hafner. Putnam, 1978.

Elizabeth Ann has a problem; her wobbly tooth will not come out. After the usual methods for dislodging a tooth have failed, she decides to forget about it, and goes out for a game with her friends. Naturally, the tooth comes out when Elizabeth Ann least expects that it will.

Kent, Jack. Round Robin. Ill. by the author. Prentice, 1982.

Colorful pictures reveal in a delightful bird tale that "All eating and no exercise" can hinder seasonal adventures. Readers laugh at the situations, recognize the true problems.

Le Sieg, Theo. The Tooth Book. Ill. by Roy McKie. Random, 1981.

Rhymes in typical Dr. Seuss style about who has teeth and who hasn't and how to take care of them, more nonsense than fact. Similar but more involved than the author's earlier Eye Book (1968) and Nose Book (1970).

McLeod, Emilie Warren. The Bear's Bicycle. Ill. by David McPhail. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1975.

Bicycle safety is demonstrated through colorful pictures leavened by a parallel set of humorous pictures of a teddy-bear-turned-real who takes the hazardous consequences of ignoring the safety rules. With teacher guidance, this book can be not only amusing but an effective teaching tool.

Ross, Pat. Molly and the Slow Teeth. Ill. by Jerry Milord. Lothrop, 1980.

"Molly Davis had not lost one tooth yet. And she was already in the second grade." An easy story of how one child goes to almost any length to get her name on the tooth chart in the front of the room.

Sharmat, Mitchell. Gregory, the Terrible Eater. Ill. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Four Winds, 1980.

Gregory, a finicky goat, frustrates his parents by eating only "junk food." The twist is that "junk food" for a goat is vegetables, eggs, and fruit. Bold illustrations highlight the absurdity of the situation and delight young readers as the family struggles to effect a compromise.

Smaridge, Norah. What's on Your Plate? Ill. by C. Imbior Kudrna. Abingdon, 1982.

After hearing these catchy, repetitious, and interesting story poems, children learn not to give in to sweet, starchy, junk foods. Positive eating habits and personal hygiene are cleverly reinforced.

READ-ALOUD BOOKS

Adler, David A. The Carsick Zebra and Other Animal Riddles. Ill. by Tomie de Paola. Holiday, 1983.

Tomie de Paola's illustrations offer black and white comic relief to an assortment of zany animal riddles.

Brown, Marc. Witches Four. Ill. by the author. Parents, 1980.

Four witches riding their brooms lose their hats. The hats rain down on four homeless cats. Who gets to keep the hats? The pictures and rhyming words combine to make the book enjoyable.

Carlstrom, Nancy White. Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear? Ill. by Bruce Degen, Macmillan, 1986.

Young children are delighted with the rhyming text, light humor, colorful illustrations, and predictability of the question, "Jesse Bear, what will you wear?"

Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Year. Ill. by Ann Grifalconi. Holt, 1974.

This book is appealing both for the woodcuts and the poetry. Children are involved because their year is much like Everett Anderson's year. Most effective if read aloud so that the poetic quality comes through to the listener.

Crowley, Arthur. Bonzo Beaver. Ill. by Annie Gusman. Houghton, 1980.

Bonzo runs away after a day of older brother Boo's continual taunts. Bonzo makes friends with a crabby old lady and together they plot to teach Boo a lesson. The full-page, simple and colorful illustrations and the rhyming verse make this an excellent book for reading aloud.

Duff, Maggie. Rum Pum Pum. Ill. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Macmillan, 1978.

Songs and repetition spark this humorous cumulative tale. The King steals Blackbird's wife, so Blackbird declares war. Cat, Stick, and Ant jump in Blackbird's ear to help pay back the King for his evil to them as well. Children loved hearing this story and joined in on the Rum Pum Pum drum chorus.

Kalan, Robert. Jump, Frog, Jump! Ill. by Bryan Barton. Greenwillow, 1981.

Here's a perfect read-aloud story in the cumulative tale tradition. There's a fish that's after a frog and a snake that swallows the fish and a turtle that swallows the snake.

Wood, Audrey. The Napping House. Ill. by Don Wood. Hill, 1984.

The cumulative rhyme is full of fun and humor about everyone and everything napping on a cozy bed in a napping house. The illustrations are special.

CLASSICS

Carle, Eric. Eric Carle's Storybook: Seven Tales by the Brothers Grimm. Ill. by the author. Watts, 1976.

Eric Carle chose seven of the tales by the Grimm brothers to retell in versions based on research from the original and from childhood memories. His brillian illustrations give an added dimension to the characterizations and humorous tone of the text.

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. The Cock, the Mouse, and the Little Red Hen. Ill. by the author. Putnam, 1982.

Cock and Mouse, both lazy and bad-tempered, share a pretty cottage with cheerful, industrious Red Hen. In an old run-down cottage across the way, a big bad fox lives with his four little foxes. When the fox grabs the cock, the mouse, and the hen for his dinner, little Red Hen devises a plan to save their lives.

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. The Goose and the Golden Coins. Ill. by the author. Harcourt, 1981.

An old folktale, retold with ingenuity and accompanied by large drawings, is a fine read-aloud book. Children like the happy ending.

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse. Ill. by the author. Putnam, 1984.

The classic tale of the town and country cousins who compare life-styles is enhanced by detailed illustrations. The story is a favorite with young readers and Cauley retells it in easily understood language.

de Paola, Tomie. Tomie de Paola's Mother Goose. Ill. by the author. Putnam, 1985.

Over 200 Mother Goose rhymes come to life through de Paola's illustrations. Many unfamiliar verses are included among most of the well known rhymes.

Ford, B. G. Little Red Riding Hood. Ill. by Elve Fortis De Hieronymis. Grosset, 1985.

Large illustrations pull out from one another like a telescope, providing children with a new way to enjoy this classic fairy tale.

Grimm Brothers. Hansel and Gretel. Ill. by Susan Jeffers. Dial, 1980.

Large-scale, realistic pictures in soft, fresh colors add considerable depth of action and feeling to this simplified version of two lost children who find a witch's house made of cake and candy.

Kellogg, Steven. Chicken Little. Ill. by the author. Morrow, 1985.

An old time favorite updated. Jogging shorts, running shoes, "poulice car," helicopter, and a new character, Hippo Hefty, the sky-patrol officer, are introduced through delightful drawings and text.

Lear, Edward. The Owl and the Pussycat. Ill. by Janet Stevens. Holiday, 1983.

The rhythm and rhyme of Edward Lear's familiar poem combined with Janet Stevens's rich, humorous illustrations captivate young readers. In particular, the beautiful Pussy, the elegant Owl, and piggy-wig are delightful.

McGovern, Ann. Stone Soup. Ill. by Winslow Pinney Pels. Scholastic, 1986.

A hungry young traveler gets a free meal by offering to teach an old woman how to make soup from a stone. Children delight in the repetition and the clever illustrations in this classic folktale.

Martin, Sarah C. Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog. Ill. by Span Olsen. Coward, 1976.

A new English translation of the Swedish version of the old English rhyme adds droll humor and zest to the familiar chant.

O'Connor, Jane. The Teeny Tiny Woman. Ill. by R. W. Alley. Random, 1986.

In this folktale retold for beginning readers, the teeny tiny woman finds a teeny tiny bone in the churchyard, and plans to use it for supper. But the ghost says, "Give me my bone!" Kindergartners said, "It's fun to read because it has lots of the same words."

Pearson, Tracey Campbell. Old MacDonald Had a Farm. Ill. by the author. Dial, 1984.

Children enjoy singing these familiar verses in addition to "reading" the active, full-color pictures that show Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald's comical exploits with a large group of farm animals. Music and lyrics for two additional verses are included.

Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit. Ill. by David McPhail. Scholastic, 1986.

Peter's adventures in Mr. McGregor's garden continue to fascinate children in this warmly illustrated classic tale. A definite "read it again" story!

Ross, Tony. Stone Soup. Ill. by the author. Dial, 1987.

Young children will recognize the hen and the bad wolf from other folk tales they have heard. The pictures are very funny. This book lends itself to good discussions.

Ross, Tony. The Three Pigs. Ill. by the author. Pantheon, 1983.

A lighthearted retelling of the classic tale of the Three Pigs. The up-to-date pigs live on the 39th floor of a big city high-rise but decide to move to the spacious, sunny countryside. They meet with the pig-eating bully, the cranky old wolf and his huffing and puffing as never before.

Westcott, Nadine Bernard. I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly. Ill. by the author. Atlantic/Little, Brown, 1980.

Children love this retelling of the favorite folksong where each cure is worse than the last.

WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

Bird, Malcolm. The Sticky Child. Ill. by the author. Harcourt, 1981.

This wordless book depicts sticky situations between a child and the babysitter who comes to live in while parents vacation. Babysitter figures a sticky way of her own to bring order to the household. Or so she thinks. Children find the book both funny and familiar.

de Paola, Tomie. Pancakes for Breakfast. Ill. by the author. Harcourt, 1978.

Imagine having to gather eggs, milk a cow, and churn butter amid all sorts of early morning crises -- just to have pancakes for breakfast! This near-wordless book shows it all with gentle humor, and a recipe is included so that primary children can try their own hands at pancake making, an excellent activity for building language and reading readiness skills.

Hoban, Tana. Dig, Drill, Dump, Fill. Ill. with photographs by the author. Greenwillow, 1975.

Black-and-white photographs of heavy earth moving equipment will engage the youngest reader of this wordless book. Useful for categorizing, labeling, language experience stories and just looking, this book will fit in many areas of the curriculum.

Krahn, Fernando. Here Comes Alex Pumpernickel. Ill. by the author. Atlantic/ Little, Brown, 1981.

This wordless book presents eight misdirected adventures in the life of Alex Pumpernickel.

Krahn, Fernando. Little Love Story. Ill. by the author. Lippincott, 1978.

A wordless tale of a Valentine's Day gift -- a heart-shaped balloon -- a little boy gives a little girl. Useful for encouraging conversation and storytelling among younger students.

Park, W. B. Charlie-Bob's Fan. Ill. by the author. Harcourt, 1981.

A clever, cartoon-style, wordless book. It is hot, but when Charlie-Bob, the dog, hurries to his favorite spot in front of the fan, the fan isn't running. He offers it a bone and barks, but nothing happens. The humorous way in which the fan accidently gets turned on and a sequence of events involving a cat chase make this a great book for storytelling and oral language development.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Allen, Jeffrey. Mary Alice Operator Number 9. Ill. by James Marshall. Little, Brown, 1975.

Mary Alice is sick and can no longer quack the correct time. Other animals try and fail to bark or oink the time correctly or pleasantly, as the callers are accustomed to Operator Number 9. At last, Mary Alice is well and all are happy to hear her familiar quack return. Good for acting out the roles.

Keats, Ezra Jack. Dreams. Ill. by the author. Macmillan, 1974.

Excellent book for primary language arts. The words paint pictures. Beautifully illustrated. Promotes oral discussion and writing as kids relate their own dreams.

Morrison, Bill. Squeeze a Sneeze. Ill. by the author. Houghton, 1977.

This lighthearted nonsensical rhyme will tickle the fancy of every young child. The clever use of words will inspire readers to create their own zany, fun-filled verse.

Prelutsky, Jack. Circus. Ill. by Arnold Lobel. Macmillan, 1974.

Circus appeals to K-2 because of its beautiful full-color illustrations. The poems are sophisticated reading and are most effective when presented by the teacher. This book lends itself to creative writing and language expression.

Waber, Bernard. The Snake: A Very Long Story. Ill. by the author. Houghton, 1978.

Large capital letters, a long green traveling snake, and collages of labeled scenery breathe life into this around-the-world adventure -- a novelty book that inspires primary pupils to create and dramatize very long snake stories of their own.

BEGINNING READING

Barrett, Judi. Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People. Ill. by Ron Barrett. Atheneum, 1980.

A delightful book for beginning readers to develop comprehension skills by "reading" the pictures and the large type text. Also a good book to develop oral language by talking about the pictures.

Hooks, William H., Oppenheim, Joanne, and Boegehold, Betty D. Read-a-Rebus: Tales & Rhymes in Words & Pictures. Ill. by Lynn Munsinger. Random, 1986

Throughout the five rebus stories, pictures appear in place of nouns, enticing the young child to participate in reading.

Kellogg, Steven. The Mystery of the Missing Red Mitten. Ill. by the author. Dial, 1974.

This book serves as an excellent transition from basal reader to trade book.

Krauss, Robert. Herman the Helper. Ill. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Windmill/Dutton, 1974.

"He helped others and finally helped himself," states the essence of the book. The humorous comments interwoven with the illustrations amplify the ideas in the text. The repetitive story structure is an aid to beginning readers.

Lloyd, David. Hat. Ill. by Gill Tomblin. Random, 1984.

A controlled vocabulary story in which Johnny Martin identifies each family member's hat and finally is taken to buy his own. A comfortable size for beginning readers and familiar family situations make this book popular with first and second graders.

Martin, Bill. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Ill. by Eric Carle Holt, 1983.

The bold pictures and repeated phrases made this a sure success for beginning readers. Once the book has been read, it is in demand for repeated readings by the same children.

Quackenbush, Robert. No Mouse for Me! Ill. by the author. Watts, 1981.

This easy-to-read, well-paced cumulative tale humorously depicts the outrageous problems of keeping a pet mouse. Only one new word is introduced on a page, and this vocabulary is defined through picture clues, assuring success for novice readers.

Schwartz, Alvin. Ten Copycats in a Boat and Other Riddles. Ill. by Marc Simont. Harper, 1980.

"Ten Copycats were sitting in a boat, and one jumped out. How many were left? None. They were all copycats." So begins Alvin Schwartz' collection of 28 riddles culled from folklore and aimed at beginning readers.

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